SCRIPT

The Burmese script is derived from the Mon version of Brāhmī. As in all Indic scripts, each base consonant has an inherent short vowel /a/. In addition to their primary forms, all vowels and certain consonants have secondary forms. The table shows the consonantal inventory of Burmese, and the initial vowel signs and the secondary vowel signs as applied to a consonant, denoted by C.

Eleven vowels are coded for tone, i.e. they require no tone marker. Seven of these are second tone, three are first tone, and one is third. Using /k/ as bearer consonant, we then have:

Second tone

ကာ *kā*, ကီ *kī*, ကူ *kū*, ကေ *kē*, ကယ် *kē*, ကော် *kɔ̄*, ကို *kō*

First tone

က *ka*, ကိ *ki*, ကု *ku*

Third tone

ကဲ *kɛ̄*

First-tone vowels other than the three specified above are marked with subscript dot, e.g.

ကေ့ *ke*, ကဲ့ *kɛ*, ကော့ *kɔ*, ကို့ *ko*

Third-tone vowels are marked with း (< Sanskrit visarga): e.g.

ကား *kā*, ကီး *kī*, ကူး *kū*, ကေး *kē*

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THE BURMESE SCRIPT

CONSONANTS

က	ခ	ဂ	ဃ	င	စ	ဆ	ဇ	ဈ	ဉ	ဋ
ka	*kha*	*ga*	*ga*	*nga*	*sa*	*sa*	*za*	*za*	*nya*	*ṭa*
ဌ	ဍ	ဎ	ဏ	တ	ထ	ဒ	ဓ	နဉ	ပ	
tha	*da*	*da*	*na*	*ta*	*tha*	*da*	*da*	*na*	*pa*	
ဖ	ဗ	ဘ	မ	ယ	ရ	လ	ဝ	သ	ဟ	ဠ
pha	*ba*	*ba*	*ma*	*ya*	*ya(ra)*	*la*	*wa*	*sa*	*ha*	*la*

VOWELS

(a) Independent

အ	အာ	အား	ဣ	ဤ	ဥ	ဦ
a	*ā*	*ā*	*i*	*ī*	*u*	*ū*
ဧ	ဩ	အဲ	ဪ	ဪ	အို	အံ
e	*ē*	*ɛ*	*ō*	*ō*	*ō*	*an*

(b) as used with bearer consonant, represented by C:

C *-a* Cာ *-ā* Cား *-ā* C̊ *-i* C̊ *-ī* C̱ (C̱) *-u* C̱ (C̱ *-ū*

ꩬC *-e* ꩬC *-ē* C̀ *-ɛ* ꩬCိ *-ō* ꩬCာ *-ō* C̊ *-ō*

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